

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAR ES 03606 221354Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 HA-05 IO-13 ACDA-12 /105 W
-----073998 221413Z /64

P R 221316Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9593
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
USICA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 3606

USICA FOR PGH/RC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, MASS, MO, SS, TZ, US
SUBJECT: WESTERN SAHARA: EDITORIAL WARNS AGAINST US AIRCRAFT
SALES TO MOROCCO

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEWS
AUGUST 22 WARNED US AGAINST SELLING AIRCRAFT TO MOROCCO
FOR USE AGAINST POLISARIO FORCES.

2. EDITORIAL STATED THAT COUP IN MAURITANIA HAD RAISED
HOPES FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE WESTERN SAHARA DISPUTE.
"HILE POLISARIO HAS MADE AN INITIATIVE TOWARDS PEACE,
MOROCCO IS BUSY LOOKING FOR ARMS TO INTENSIFY THE WAR
AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF SAHARA. THEY WANT COBRA HELICOPTERS
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FROM THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS
CANVASSING FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF SUPPLIES TO
MOROCCO." EDITORIAL RECALLED THAT A SIMILAR PROPOSAL WAS
TURNED DOWN BY CONGRESS IN JANUARY BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT
ASSURANCES THAT THE HELICOPTERS WOULD NOT BE USED IN THE
SAHARA WAR. "IF THE UNITED STATES, WHOSE F-5 BOMERS
ARE ALREADY BEING USED AGAINST POLISARIO POSITIONS,

SUPPLIES ARMS TO MOROCCO, AFRICA WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LIST HER ALONG WITH FRANCE WHOSE AIR FORCE HAS ALREADY INTERVENED ON THE SIDE OF THE OCCUPATION FORCES."

3. BALANCE OF EDITORIAL CONTAINS STRONG STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF POLISARIO. EDITORIAL FOLLOWS VISIT LAST WEEKEND OF THREE-MAN POLISARIO DELEGATION LED BY VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL BASHIR MUSTAFA SAYED. IN PRESS INTERVIEW SAYED SAID HE WAS INFORMING AFRICAN LEADERS OF THE SITUATION IN WESTERN SAHARA, ESPECIALLY IN WAKE OF JULY COUP IN MAURITANIA. HE ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID HE WAS SEEKING TANZANIAN RECOGNITION FOR THE SAHARA DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. POLISARIO DELEGATION MET WITH EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF REVOLUTIONARY PARTY AND WITH REPRESENTATIVE OF OAU LIBERATION COMMITTEE AND OF SOME LIBERATION MOVEMENTS BASED IN DAR ES SALAAM.

END UNCLASSIFIED.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

4. COMMENT. THERE IS NO SIGN THAT TANZANIA IS ABOUT TO RECOGNIZE THE SAHARA DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC. NOR DID THE POLISARIO DELEGATION APPARENTLY EVEN GET TO DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE. THE SEMI-OFFICIAL EDITORIAL, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO RAISE TANZANIA'S SUPPORT FOR POLISARIO
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TO A NEW LEVEL, INCLUDING A WARNING TO THE UNITED STATES THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH, ALTHOUGH LESS SHRILL AND PROBABLY LESS AUTHORITATIVE THAN, PRESIDENT NYERERE'S STATEMENT IN JUNE ABOUT WESTERN INVOLVEMENT IN SHABA (DAR ES SALAAM 2453).
END COMMENT.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION ON ALLEGED MOROCCAN INTEREST IN US AIRCRAFT TO ASSIST IN DEALING WITH INQUIRIES.
SPAIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 22 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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